

THE *no. 9.*

Golden Speech

OF

Queen Elizabeth

TO

Her Last Parliament,

November 30. Anno Domini, 1601.

WITH

*Her Brit. Sovereignty, &c.
1558-1603 (Elizabeth)*

OBSERVATIONS

Adapted to these Times.

L O N D O N,

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THE

Golden Age

Queen Elizabeth

Her Last Parliament

1571-1572

WITH

OBSERVATIONS

Adapted to the Times

1871

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of London and Weymouth

The Press

THE PREFACE.

THis Speech ought to be set in Letters of Gold, that as well the Majesty, Prudence, and Virtue of this Royal Queen, might in general most exquisitely appear; as also that Her Religious Love, and tender respect which she particularly, and constantly did bear to Her Parliament in unfeigned Sincerity, might be nobly and truly vindicated, and proclaimed, with all grateful Recognition to God for so great a Blessing to his poor People of England, in vouchsafing them heretofore such a Gracious Princess, and magnanimous Defender of the Re-

P R E F A C E.

formed Religion, and Heroick-Patrons of the Liberty of Her Subjects, in the freedom and honour of their Parliaments; which have been, under God, the continual Conservators of the Splendor, and Wealth of this Kingdom, against Tyranny and Oppression.

THE

THE
Golden SPEECH
OF
Qu. Elizabeth.

The 30th of Novemb. 1601. Her Majesty being set under State in the Council-Chamber at White-Hall, the Speaker, accompanied with Privy-Counsellors, besides Knights and Burgeses of the Lower House, to the number of Eight-score, presenting themselves at Her Majesty's Feet, for that so graciously and speedily she had heard and yielded to Her Subjects Desires, and proclaimed the same in their hearing, as followeth:

Mr. Speaker,



Perceive your coming is to present Thanks unto Us; Know, I accept them with no less Joy, than your Loves can have desire to offer such a Present, and do more esteem it, than any Treasure of Riches; for those We know how to prize, but Loyalty, Love, and Thanks, I account them invaluable: And though God hath
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raised Me high, yet this I account the Glory of my Crown, that I have Reigned with your Loves. This makes that I do not so much Rejoyce, that God hath made Me to be a Queen, as to be a Queen over so Thankful a People, and to be the mean, under God, to conserve you in Safety, and to preserve you from Danger; yea, to be the Instrument to deliver you from Dishonour, Shame, and Infamy; to keep you from Servitude, and from Slavery under our Enemies, and cruel Tyranny, and vile Oppression intended against Us: For the better withstanding whereof, We take very acceptably your intended Helps, and chiefly in that it manifesteth your Loves, and largeness of Heart to your Sovereign. Of my self I must say this, I never was any greedy scraping Grasper, nor a strict fast-holding Prince, nor yet a Waster; My Heart was never set upon any worldly Goods, but only for my Subjects good. What you do bestow on Me, I will not hoard up, but receive it to bestow on you again; yea, Mine own Properties I account yours, to be expended for your Good, and your Eyes shall see the bestowing of it for your welfare.

Mr. *Speaker*, I would wish you, and the rest to stand up, for I fear I shall yet trouble you with longer Speech. Mr. *Speaker*, you give Me Thanks, but I am more to Thank you, and I charge you, Thank them of the Lower-House from Me, for had I not received Knowledge from you, I might have fallen into the lapse of an Error, only for want of true Information. Since I was Queen, yet did I never put my Pen to any Grant, but upon pretext and semblance made Me, that it was for the good, and avail of my Subjects generally, though a private Profit to some of my ancient Servants who have deserved well: But that my Grants shall be made Grievances to my People, and Oppressions, to be privileged

ledged under colour of our Patents, Our Princely Dignity shall not suffer it. When I heard it, I could give no rest unto my Thoughts until I had reformed it, and those Varlets, lewd Persons, abusers of my Bounty, shall know that I will not suffer it. And Mr. *Speaker*, tell the House from Me, I take it exceeding grateful that the Knowledge of these things are come unto Me from them. And though amongst them the principal Members are such as are not touched in private, and therefore need not speak from any feeling of the Grief, yet We have heard that other Gentlemen also of the House, who stand as free, have spoken as freely in it, which gives Us to know, that no Respects or Interests have moved them, other than the Minds they bear to suffer no diminution of our Honour, and our Subject's love unto Us. The zeal of which Affection tending to ease my People, and knit their Hearts unto Us, I embrace with a Princely Care, far above all earthly Treasures. I esteem my Peoples Love, more than which I desire not to Merit: And God that gave Me here to sit, and placed Me over you, knows that I never respected my Self, but as your Good was concerned in Me: Yet what Dangers, what Practices, and what Perils I have passed, some, if not all of you know, but none of these things do move Me, or ever made Me fear, but it is God that hath delivered Me. And in my governing this Land, I have ever set the last Judgment-Day before mine Eyes, and so to Rule, as I shall be Judged and answer before a higher Judge, to whose Judgment-Seat I do appeal in that, never Thought was cherished in my Heart that tended not to my Peoples Good. And if my Princely Bounty have been abused, and my Grants turned to the hurt of my People, contrary to my Will and Meaning, or if any in Authority

under

under Me have neglected, or converted what I have committed unto them, I hope God will not lay their Culps to my Charge. To be a King, and wear a Crown, is a thing more glorious to them that see it, than it is pleasant to them that bear it : For my Self, I never was so much enticed with the glorious Name of a King, or the Royal Authority of a Queen, as delighted that God hath made Me his Instrument to maintain his Truth and Glory, and to defend this Kingdom from Dishonour, Damage, Tyranny, and Oppression. But should I ascribe any of these things unto my Self, or my sexly Weakness, I were not worthy to live, and of all most unworthy of the Mercies I have received at God's Hands : But to God only and wholly all is given and ascribed. The Cares and Trouble of a Crown I cannot more fitly resemble, than to the Drugs of a Learned Physician, perfumed with some Aromatic Savour, or to bitter Pills gilded over, by which they are made more acceptable, or less offensive, which indeed are bitter and unpleasant to take ; and for mine own part, were it not for Conscience sake, to discharge the Duty that God hath laid upon Me, and to maintain his Glory, and keep you in Safety, in mine own Disposition I should be willing to resign the Place I hold to any other, and glad to be freed of the Glory with the Labours : For it is not my desire to Live or Reign longer, than my Life and Reign shall be for your Good. And though you have had, and may have, many mightier and wiser Princes sitting in this Seat, yet you never had, nor shall have any, that will Love you better.

Thus, Mr. *Speaker*, I commend Me to your Loyal Loves, and yours to my best Carè, and your further Coun-

Counfels ; and I pray you, Mr. *Comptroller*, and Mr. *Secretary*, and you of my Counsel, that before these Gentlemen depart into their Countries, you bring them all to kiss my Hand.

Observations.

A Bout Two Hundred Years since, almost all *Europe* (except *Muscovy*) lived under the happy form of a mixt Monarchical Government ; having this Maxim of the Ancients, that the King and the Peoples Interest are one and the same. The King had his Dues, and the People had theirs ; as it was then in *France*, *Spain*, *Germany*, *Poland*, &c. But the Pope envying the Happiness of Princes, and People, under this mild Monarchy ; and to secure his new *Trentine* Antichristian Supremacy, having gotten his Jesuits to be King's Confessors, flatter'd and wheedl'd Princes, that as in the Text, *This shall be the manner of your Kings* ; God was giving the People the *Jus Divinum* of Government, when in truth, He was threatening them with the Plague of Tyrants ! And this took such effect, as to turn the former easie Monarchies into absolute illegal Tyrannies ; which first began by *Lewis* XI. in *France*, and followed by that horrid Inquisition in *Spain*, &c. So that *Europe*, and the *West-Indies*, have been the Shambles of Papal Barbarities in the Massacres of Millions of Christians, and other Human Souls ever since.

Our wise Queen *Elizabeth* therefore having a right regard to the general Good and Weal of the People, accommodated her Government to the true *Genius* of the Monarchical Institution, as it then stood: For She constantly courted the People, expressing Her Monarchy was founded in the Peoples Affections: And by that Expedient kept up Her Self and Monarchy to that Height and Glory, as it first stood in its natural Foundation; and this against all Foreign Powers. And She thus answer'd all the Ends of Government; for Factions and Parties were thus sunk; the Interest of Court and Country were made One, and Vertue, Honesty, and Piety were restor'd and encourag'd.

But King *James*, being desirous to be more at liberty from his Old Master *Buchanan's* more severe Principles, as to his Prerogative, some Prelates quickly gratified His Inclination, (tho' to the bane of his Successors) in their Political Doctrines, which they drew from God's Word, touching *Succession, Jure Divino*, and *Passive Obedience*. But by how much they intermeddled with Secular Affairs, and grew more lordly and less hospitable, they greatly prejudiced the Evangelical Episcopacy. *Laud* in King *Charles's* Time, was one of the great Promoters of those Political Doctrines for Court-Interest, as *Strafford* was for Arbitrary Government, and both suffer'd. But good Bishop *Abbot*, Learned *Usher*, &c. liked not those strayings from Holy Writ. Thus the Corruption of the Prelacy, lowered the Episcopacy, and made way for Presbitery: And the Corruption of the Courtiers drew the Nation into Extremities to run to Democracy.

By all which, What reason *France, Spain, &c.* have to trust the Pope, may wofully appear! And how King *Charles* was beholding to *Laud* and *Strafford* for their Inno-

Innovations, is loudly manifest, in the Ruines that follow'd his Family, and the Nation since that time.

The Premises well weighed, Can any now set up for an Arbitrary Government, that are truly hearty to King *WILLIAM*, since that has caused such Uproars, Ruines of Kings, and Destructions in the World, for above a Hundred Years last past.

But it's objected, We have need to fear a Democracy. As to that, this Nation having so lately escaped the dangerous effects of a mislead and motly Democracy: It may be reasonably concluded, that, that will never more long prevail in *England*; especially, since all the Advantages in a Common-wealth, can as freely and fully be derived from the Temper of an established well-bounded Monarchy, which is so agreeable to the Interest of a free People, that nothing can be desired to make us more happy, and more perfect.

F I N I S.

Information is loudly wanted, in the times that follow his family, and the Nation since that time.

The promises well weighed, Can any now let up for an American Government, that are truly heavy to King and People, that has called such Unions, and Distinctions in the World, for a better than this, and this is all that is left.

But it is objected, We have need to fear a Democracy. As to that, this Nation having to lately escaped the danger of a mixed and mostly Democracy, it may be reasonably concluded, that that will never more long prevail in England; especially, since all the advantages of a Commonwealth can as freely and fully be derived from the Temper of an established well regulated Monarchy, which is so agreeable to the interests of a free People, that nothing can be devised to make us more happy, and more perfect.